

## Preface

Since 1977, the Hong Kong Arts Centre has passionately been promoting contemporary art in Hong Kong, and providing a platform for inspirational cultural dialogues through a diversity of exhibitions, education programmes, and related events. This summer, we are delighted to collaborate with the Japan Foundation and the Consulate-General of Japan in Hong Kong to present the travelling exhibition *Winter Garden: The Exploration of the Micropop Imagination in Contemporary Japanese Art*.

At the beginning of the 90s, the Japanese economic bubble began to burst, and the country was also stricken by such natural and social disasters as the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, the Kobe Earthquake, and the Tokyo subway sarin attack by the Aum Shinrikyo cult. Such dramatic events altered the life prospects of young Japanese –especially the ones who came of age in the late 1990s. Living in an increasingly globalised world, and looking at the destruction of local communities, a young generation of Japanese artists developed individual ways to survive. As a result, this generation’s artistic expressions differ from their predecessors’ and are powerful, as well as politically and socially intoned. This exhibition explores the ways in which those young Japanese artists see and respond to our contemporary era.

Japanese pop culture has been widely prevalent in Hong Kong from entertainment to lifestyle, but contemporary Japanese Art has not yet come into the spotlight. To give our audience a deeper understanding, we have prepared a reading area within the exhibition making available publications and artists’ catalogues. A talk by Hitomi Hasegawa, Curator & Director of MIACA, will present the current Japanese art scene and its diversity. In addition, we will be organising several workshops, open to the public, to encourage participants to be inspired by their observations and experiences to create art. We hope the show and its education programmes will be a meaningful to Hong Kong audiences and allow them to look at the variety of Japanese artistic expression.

On behalf of the Hong Kong Arts Centre, I would like to express my gratitude to our co-presenter, the Japan Foundation and the Consulate-General of Japan in Hong Kong for bringing this extraordinary exhibition to Hong Kong; with the support from our major sponsor The Li Family and sponsor Hopewell Holdings Limited, and thanks to the Drawing Workshop sponsor Pentel (Hong Kong) Ltd making public art education programmes possible. We would also like to extend our special thanks to Shugo Arts, Mujin-to Production, Ota Fine Art, Kaikai Kiki, Galerie Perrotin, Taka Ishii Gallery, Vitamin Creative Space, and Tomio Koyama Gallery for contributing publications to our reading corner; and of course to our HKAC colleagues who have been involved in this exhibition.

Connie Lam  
Executive Director  
Hong Kong Arts Centre

## 前言

自一九七七年成立以來，香港藝術中心一直致力在香港推廣當代藝術，並通過多元化的展覽、教育活動和相關節目，提供交流平台，促進富啟發性的文化對話。這個夏天，我們很榮幸與日本國際交流基金會和日本駐香港總領事館攜手合作，呈獻「冬日花園：探索日本當代藝術的微波普想象」巡迴展覽。

九十年代初，日本經濟泡沫開始爆破，自然與社會災害接二連三，如阪神淡路大地震、神戶大地震、奧姆真理教發動的東京地鐵沙林毒氣事件等。這些災難性事件改變了日本年輕人對生命的看法—特別是在九十年代末成長的一輩。在日益全球化的世界，眼見自己的在地社群分崩離析，年輕一輩的日本藝術家開始發展出各自的生存之道。因此，他們這一代的藝術表達有別於前人，極其有力而且帶有政治和社會色彩。是次展覽便探討了這些年輕日本藝術家檢視和回應當前時代的方法。

日本流行文化在香港大行其道，由娛樂到日常生活均見蹤影，但當代日本藝術卻仍未為香港人注視。為了令我們的觀眾對當代日本藝術有更深入瞭解，展覽特設閱讀區，備有相關著作和藝術家作品圖錄以供參閱。我們也安排了座談會，邀請策展人暨 MIACA 總監長谷川仁美女士，主講日本當前的藝術生態及其多元化的狀況。除此之外，我們還會舉辦數個工作坊，歡迎公眾參與，鼓勵參加者從展覽的觀察與經驗中汲取靈感，創作藝術。衷心希望這個展覽和相關的教育活動，能讓香港觀眾欣賞到日本藝術的多元化表現形式，並從中找到意義。

在此謹代表香港藝術中心，向是次展覽的合辦單位日本國際交流基金會、日本駐香港總領事館衷心致謝，感謝他們將這個不同凡響的展覽帶到香港；亦要感謝全力支持展覽的主要贊助 The Li Family 和贊助單位合和實業有限公司；Pentel (Hong Kong) Limited 贊助繪畫工作坊，令這個公眾藝術教育活動得以進行，在此一併致謝。此外，Shugo Arts、無人島、Ota Fine Art、Kaikai Kiki、貝浩登畫廊、Taka Ishii Gallery、維他命藝術空間、小山登美夫畫廊等，慷慨提供閱讀區的讀物；當然所有參與籌辦展覽的香港藝術中心同事亦功不可沒。

香港藝術中心總幹事  
林淑儀